UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/507
S/24630
7 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 6 October 1992 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which retains the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your immediate attention.

Today, the occupying Israeli forces indiscriminately fired upon Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in several locations. In Rafah, at approximately 9 a.m. local time, the Israeli forces raided the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where a number of Palestinians had been previously assembled in solidarity with the ongoing prisoners' strike. Several thousands of the estimated 12,500 Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli detention centres and prisons have been waging a hunger strike since 27 September 1992 to protest against the deteriorating conditions of detention imposed upon them by the Israeli authorities.

The Israeli forces also attacked other Palestinian gatherings in the same town of Rafah, which resulted in the shooting of 63 people in addition to 45 other casualties by other means, including gas bombs. Similar criminal acts were committed in the City of Gaza, resulting in 26 casualties, as well as in Al-Maghazi and Deir Al-Balah refugee camps and in the city of Hebron.

We expect immediate action by the Secretary-General and the Security Council to put an end to such breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 committed by the Israeli authorities and to put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian prisoners.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations